

**APHIS – Plant Protection and Quarantine**  
**Daily Situation Report: Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)**  
 April 5, 2007

**Survey and Diagnostics Information:**

Counties	Survey		Diagnostics	
	Number of Traps	Number of Positive Traps	Presumptive Positive	Confirmed Positive
Alameda	1,065	53	0	62
Contra Costa	1,267	21	0	26
Marin	513	5	0	5
San Francisco	108	15	0	51
Santa Clara	486	2	2	0
Total to Date	3,439	94	0	144

- **Survey**
  - Survey teams continue to implement a rigorous detection and delimiting survey for the light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Marin, and Santa Clara counties.
  - 3,439 traps have been deployed within a 30-mile radius of the initial LBAM detection. Traps are being inspected weekly.
  - In addition, a total of 1,631 traps have also been deployed in other counties, including Los Angeles (293), Napa (32), Orange (175), Sacramento (167), San Diego (173), San Joaquin (24), San Mateo (462), Solano (157), Sonoma (123), and Yolo (15).
  - Nurseries located within 1.5 miles from any confirmed LBAM site in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, and Marin counties are being proactively inspected for the presence of LBAM.
- **Identification and Diagnostics**
  - Trapped moths are forwarded to the California Department of Agriculture's (CDFA) Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory for the initial identification. All LBAM "presumptive positive" moths from each county are forwarded to the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, DC, for confirmation. In counties where previous specimens have been confirmed by SEL, subsequent captures are identified by CDFA.
  - A total of 144 moths have been confirmed to date as LBAM from traps in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, and Marin counties. It is important to note that all 144 moths are from traps located within ten miles of the

initial find. In addition, two moths from Santa Clara County have been designated as presumptive positive.

## **Operational Update:**

- **Technical Working Group (TWG)**
  - APHIS has assembled a team of subject matter experts from the United States and New Zealand to discuss and recommend LBAM survey methods, mitigation tools, and eradication strategies.
- **Incident Command**
  - Thirty-six (36) personnel are on-site (32-CDFA; 4-APHIS) and assuming various roles within the ICS structure.
- **Regulatory Actions**
  - To date, CDFA has issued a total of 23 compliance agreements to establishments (nursery stock and green waste) located within 1.5 miles from any confirmed LBAM site, requiring regular inspections of all nursery stock and report of suspect LBAM to regulatory officers.
  - All host commodities (nursery stock and green waste) must be inspected by CDFA, APHIS, or County officials and found free of LBAM before leaving quarantine areas.
  - On April 2, 2007, an inspection of one San Francisco nursery led to the detection of three larvae on *vinca sp.* plants. Because of the difficulty of confirming the identification at the larval stage, the plan is to rear the larvae to the adult stage. One additional larva and four pupae were also found during re-inspection of the same facility of April 4, 2007.
- **Trace-back and Trace-forward**
  - Trace-back and trace-forward investigations to determine the source and potential distribution of LBAM continue, including the inspection of nursery establishments.
- **Treatment**

CDFA and APHIS are examining treatment options with the LBAM Technical Working Group. CDFA is researching registration needs for biopesticides.

## **Trade:**

- Many countries such as Chile, South Korea, Peru, and South Africa list LBAM as a Quarantine Pest and may require certification attesting pest freedom for commodities such as apples, pears, grapes, citrus, cherries, and stone fruits. Mexico and Canada may also require some type of certification.

- Information was provided to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in response to its March 28 request for additional information regarding the LBAM situation, including U.S. quarantine plans and import requirements of host commodities originating from infested areas of the world.

## **Communication and Outreach:**

- Public Information Officers (PIO) from APHIS and CDFA are in the process of developing communication plans designed to inform stakeholders and cooperators of the survey objectives and response plans.
- Representatives from CDFA, APHIS, and Contra Costa Agricultural Commissioner briefed on April 5 the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors and other officials on the LBAM situation.

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## **Background:**

- On February 6, 2007, a private citizen near Berkeley in Alameda County, California, reported that two suspect moths had been captured in a blacklight trap on his property.
- In response, pheromone-baited traps were placed on March 1, 2007, in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Trap inspections began March 7, 2007.
- On March 16, 2007, the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, DC, confirmed that the two samples submitted were positive, and validated the results using morphological testing.
- USDA and CDFA issued press releases on March 22, 2007, announcing the confirmation of LBAM in California.
- USDA-APHIS sent a letter to all SPROs on March 22, 2007, informing States and stakeholders of the LBAM in California.
- The light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, is a native pest of Australia and is now widely distributed New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and New Caledonia.
- Although it was reported in Hawaii in the late 1800s, the LBAM find in California is the first on the US mainland.
- If left uncontrolled, LABM could cause significant damage to many different kinds of plants, including stone fruit (peaches, plums, nectarines, cherries, and apricots), pome fruit (apples and pears), grapes, and citrus.